



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

March 29, 2000

Dear Set-top Box Manufacturers and Other Interested Parties:

EPA welcomes your input on the following *Draft Specification (Version 3.0)* for the ENERGY STAR® Set-top Box Program. The five-page document outlines the main criteria that manufacturers' products will need to meet to qualify for the ENERGY STAR label. All set-top manufacturers and other interested parties (e.g., service providers and component suppliers) are encouraged to review the Draft Specification and provide **comments by April 21, 2000**. **As this program is in the final stages of development, EPA requests that companies provide prompt feedback in order to ensure adequate time for review and consideration prior to distributing the Final Specification in late May 2000.**

When preparing your company's response to the Draft Specification, please provide feedback (including alternatives, as appropriate) on all of the following:

- Product and Operational Mode Definitions (see Section 1 of Version 3.0 Draft Specification)
- Types of Qualifying Products (see Section 2)
- Energy-Efficiency Specification (see Section 3)
- Tier 2 Specification (see Section 3)
- Test Method (see Section 4 and attached draft Test Method)
- Effective Dates (see Section 5)
- Launch Venue (see Section 5)

All comments should be sent to me via e-mail at hershberg.craig@epa.gov. Questions may also be directed to me via e-mail or phone at 202-564-1251.

All industry comments on Version 2.0 of the Draft Specification were reviewed and considered carefully during the development of Version 3.0. (A summary of the March 14 Set-top Box Meeting is attached.) Based on industry comments and suggestions, the latest draft of the specification incorporates the following major additions and revisions.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM VERSION 2.0 TO 3.0

- The qualifying product list has been revised to include wireless TV set-top boxes, such as MMDS and LMDS;
- The 8-Watt and 12-Watt specifications proposed in Version 2.0 have been replaced with a 15-Watt specification for digital cable TV set-top boxes, satellite TV set-top boxes, wireless TV set-top boxes, personal video recorders, and multimedia devices with hard drive video recording functionality. The proposed 15-Watt specification is consistent with the new ENERGY STAR Computer Program specification that takes effect on July 1, 2000;

- The antenna is included in power calculations for satellite TV set-top boxes. Several industry representatives encouraged EPA to include the antenna in the specification because the antenna is an integral part of the satellite system and its power consumption; and
- A Tier 2 specification of 7 Watts for all product categories has been developed. EPA proposes that the Tier 2 specification take effect three years after Tier 1 commences. As product convergence continues, EPA believes that it will be both desirable and necessary to develop one specification for all set-top boxes. Further, EPA feels that developing a Tier 2 specification well in advance of its implementation date provides the following advantages: 1) it allows manufacturers to make long-term energy-efficiency design decisions with confidence that the specification won't change shortly thereafter, and 2) it reduces the administrative burden on both EPA and manufacturers because fewer industry meetings and written agreements are required.
- EPA has proposed that Tier 1 take effect immediately and remain in effect through December 31, 2003. Tier 2 will commence on January 1, 2004. Marketing and promotional activities in support of this program (e.g., program launch) will be conducted by EPA, with assistance from Partners and the Electronics Industry Alliance/Consumer Electronics Association (EIA/CEA), at the 2001 Consumer Electronics Show (CES[®]). Thus, EPA intends to finalize the specification by late May 2000 and then spend the next several months preparing for the program launch in January 2001.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to review this Draft Specification. For more information about ENERGY STAR and specifically the Set-top Box Program, please visit our Web site at www.energystar.gov and click on "Products in Development."

Respectfully,

Craig Hershberg
EPA Program Manager
ENERGY STAR Home Electronics

Enclosures